does the answer refer? My question is 'what steps have been taken'.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—41 (3).

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There is not my answer there. My question was 'what steps the Government have taken to recover the loans paid to the Tanneries for the past 2 years'. The other is the means. It does not form an answer to my question.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That is the means the Government have taken. The Government have taken action, and then there is the Company's look-out.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I only ask about the working. What steps have been taken to recover the sum given to the Tanneries in the last two years?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The President has been asked to suggest means for its working by leasing it or otherwise.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It is not an answer to my question. My question is whether the Government have taken any steps; if so, what. It is a plain question. If you have taken any steps, say so. If not, say Government have not taken any steps. That is the reply I want.

Deputy President.—No steps have been taken.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Am I to understand that no steps have been taken to recover the Government loans? I am satisfied. That would have been the best answer from the very beginning.

43. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what amount of money stands invested in the Cochin Tanneries, Ltd., by Government on the first of Karkadagam 1103;

(b) what steps they have taken for the recovery of the amount from the Company;

(c) what proposals they have either for the working of the Company in future or liquidating the same;

(d) will the Government be pleased to state the names of the present Directors of the Company including those of the Government Directors?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—(a), (b) and (c). Vide answer to question No. 41.

(d) The names of the Directors are:—

1. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon, Chief Engineer.
2. Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai, Director of Public Instruction.
3. Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi, Comptroller of Accounts.
4. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.

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5. Mr. M. Krishna Menon.
6. Mr. K. K. Rama Menon and
7. Mr. Oomer Hajee Ayoob Sait, the first three being Government Directors.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, whether the investment is put in the answer given in IV (a)? I am referred to answer to (a),(b),(c) to 41 in IV (a). "Shares—Rs. 1,20,000". Whether that amount shows the interest due also upon the loan?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—That does not include interest.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the interest due from the Company? Has no interest been paid?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—No interest has been paid as yet.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—For how many years is interest due from the Company?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—From the date of payment of the loan we have not received anything.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What that amount will be? I want that.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—I must calculate. I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Can you give the date of the loans and what the rate of interest is?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The information will be supplied in due time. May we pass on?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the rate of interest?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—I think it is 7 per cent. I must look into the file.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is 6 per cent.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know what proposals they have either for the working of the Company in future or liquidating the same? I am asked to refer to answer to question No. 41. It is not there. In 41, I don't know where I am referred to.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—It is 41, I (3), which suggests means for its working.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know when the Director of Public Instruction was asked to do this?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—He was not directly asked. But as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee he considered it as part of his duty.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You were not asked by the Government?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Not formally asked.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know when you took up the matter for the consideration of its working ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—When the Committee was formed.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, can he question the Member directly ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am only asking the Government. May I know when it was taken up ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—When the Economic Development Committee was formed.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You took it up, and that came under the consideration of the Committee. How long has it been hatching ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The Committee has been in existence for only a year.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think it is over three years.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—A little over a year .

We have been receiving certain offers from within the State and outside, and we were to see whether they are acceptable or not.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Offers for what ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—For licensing the concern.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—How long is it since you have received those offers ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We had several offers.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The earliest when and the latest when ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—All within this one year.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—How long have these offers been kept waiting ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Offers as they come are considered and disposed of.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So all offers have been disposed of ?

Deputy President.—Are all these supplementary questions ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes. My question is whether all the proposals they have received have been disposed of ?

Deputy President.—That is all what the Government can say.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They have said 'no proposals were received' in answer to question No. 41.

Deputy President.—Government have done nothing.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The answer to that is 'none'. I suppose the Economic Development Committee is a Government Committee.

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Deputy President.—That may be.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So, whenever anything comes before the Committee, it comes before the Government.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—When a thing takes shape it will be put before the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So, nothing has taken a definite shape, and nothing has been placed before the Government. May I ask when the offers came to the Director of Public Instruction as the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and whether they were placed before the Government ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The Committee did not think it right to place it before the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.— What is the meaning of the word 'right' ? The only question is whether the Government have taken any steps. The answer is 'none'.

Deputy President.—Government have nothing except this information to give.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether the Government have received any offers ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Government have not received any proposals. The Chairman of the Economic Development Committee may have received some. But the Government have not received any.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am askingwhether the Committee has put any proposals before the Government. You said they were all rejected.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The Member is referring to answers which are given here. It is a sheer waste of time of the House.

Mr. A. B. Salem —Mere shirking of duty this is.

Deputy President.—You can ask supplementary questions with regard to this answer.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the use of my asking questions if they do not give me any definite answer ?

Deputy President.—It is not a supplementary question.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then my question is, may I know from the Director of Public Instruction whether these offers have been placed before the shareholders of the Company ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—We have not placed.

44. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they intend working the Cochin Tanneries, Ltd., in future;

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